

REMARKS

The claim amendments provided herein are a copy the claim amendments in the Supplemental Amendment filed on March 31, 2006. By virtue of the amendment, claims 6-8, 13-15 and 23-26 have been amended; and new claim 27 has been added which has support in the specification. The Supplemental Amendment filed on March 31, 2006 also contained amendments to the specification. A further Supplement Amendment filed April 12, 2006 contained amendments to the specification. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on April 7, 2006, and a Substitute Sequence Listing was filed on April 12, 2006.

Applicants respectfully traverse all objections and rejections in the final Office Action mailed November 29, 2005.

Applicants thank Supervisory Examiner Gary Nickol for the courtesy of the phone call of May 25, 2006, confirming that the final Office Action mailed November 29, 2005 will be vacated. Applicants' representative has also been advised on May 29, 2006 by the Examiner via voicemail that the final Office Action mailed November 29, 2005 will be vacated and that a new non-final Office Action will be issued. However, Applicants were unable to obtain confirmation that the final Office Action will be vacated on or prior to the May 30, 2006 deadline for response to the Office Action, and hereby file this response for technical reasons. A Notice of Appeal is also being filed in order to keep the case pending.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 220002060310. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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